

March 2, 2022

Letter: Support for H.R. 4903 and S. 2605, the Main Street Efficiency Act

The Honorable Joe Manchin  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
United States Senate  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
United States Senate  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mazie Hirono  
Chairwoman, Energy Subcommittee  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
United States Senate  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Hoeven  
Ranking Member, Energy Subcommittee  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
United States Senate  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2322 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bobby Rush  
Chairman, Energy Subcommittee  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Fred Upton  
Ranking Member, Energy Subcommittee  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2322 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Re: Support for H.R. 4903 and S. 2605, the Main Street Efficiency Act

Dear Chairman Manchin, Chairman Pallone, Chairwoman Hirono, Chairman Rush, Ranking Member Barrasso, Ranking Member Hoeven, Ranking Member Rodgers, and Ranking Member Upton:

We write today as a coalition of business, government, environmental, and consumer leaders, to urge you to convene a legislative hearing to consider the Main Street Efficiency Act of 2021. The legislation would establish a federal grant program at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to make small businesses across the nation more energy efficient.

As you know, small businesses are the undisputed backbone of the U.S. economy, providing nearly half of the employment in the United States and half of its gross domestic product. The extended economic uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 pandemic has heavily impacted these critical enterprises.

Congress can help Main Street regain competitiveness while exiting the economic crater caused by the Covid-19 pandemic by considering the Main Street Efficiency Act, introduced in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress as S. 2665 by Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada and H.R. 4903 by Rep. Peter Welch of Vermont. Senate co-sponsors include Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, and Sen. Cory Booker. Co-sponsors in the House include Rep. Marilyn Strickland, Rep. Mondaire Jones, Rep. Mike Doyle, Rep. Marc Veasey, Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester, Rep. Val Demings, Rep. Scott Peters, Rep. Paul Tonko, Rep. Ann Kuster, Rep. Doris Matsui, Rep. Barbara Lee, Rep. Andre Carson, Rep. Pete Aguilar, Del. Eleanor

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Holmes Norton, Rep. Gerald Connolly, Rep. Thomas Suozzi, Rep. Alan Lowenthal, Rep. Steve Cohen, and Rep. Mike Quigley.

The Main Street Efficiency Act would establish a grant program at the DOE to supplement, not supplant, utility demand-side management investments in small businesses. This would result not only in energy savings for businesses and avoided carbon emissions, but more critically to these struggling enterprises, it would reduce monthly operating costs for years to come, allowing entrepreneurs to re-invest in their businesses and employees. Due to the value MSEA would bring to the small business community, including minority and women-owned businesses, the legislation has the support of a diverse list of national [chambers of commerce](#) and elected official [policy organizations](#).

Across the United States, small businesses account for as much as half of any utility's energy demand, yet, even under the best of economic times, investment in the sector lags, with less than 10% of most budgets aimed at small businesses. Nationwide, small businesses spend \$60 billion annually on utility bills, which are often among the top-3 largest expenses for any small business. These bills could be cut by as much as 30% with energy efficient upgrades, like those that would be funded under the Main Street Efficiency Act.

As you consider investments in U.S. competitiveness, we urge you to invest in Main Street.

Sincerely,

Alliance to Save Energy  
Acuity Brands Lighting Inc.  
Advanced Energy Economy  
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE)  
American Public Gas Association  
Association of Energy Engineers  
Association of Energy Service Professionals (AESP)  
Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE)  
California Efficiency + Demand Management Council (CEDMC)  
Cape Light Compact JPE  
DNV Energy Services USA Inc.  
Equipment Controls Company  
Franklin Energy  
International Copper Association  
International Window Film Association (IWFA)  
Legrand  
Lutron Electronics  
Metrus Energy  
Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA)  
NAESCO  
Seattle City Light  
Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors National Association (SMACNA)  
Signify North America Corporation  
SimplyLEDs  
Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP)  
Uplight  
VEIC